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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu: draft resolution

Economic assistance to Vanuatu

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/230 of 21 December 1990 concerning economic assistance to Vanuatu and other specified countries, and 40/233 of 17 December 1985, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Vanuatu,

Recalling also its resolutions 31/156 of 21 December 1976, 32/185 of 19 December 1977, 34/205 of 19 December 1979, 35/61 of 5 December 1980, 37/206 of 20 December 1982, 39/212 of 18 December 1984, 41/163 of 5 December 1986, 43/189 of 20 December 1988 and 45/202 of 21 December 1990 relating to the special needs and problems of island developing countries,

Noting the difficult problems faced by island developing countries, owing mainly to their smallness, geographical remoteness, constraints on transport, great distances from market centres, highly limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, heavy dependence on a few commodities, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Taking note of Agenda 21, 1/ which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, in particular chapter 17, section G, relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Taking into account the fact that Vanuatu is an island developing country, with a highly vulnerable economy and a high susceptibility to natural disasters, that it is a geographically remote archipelago with a small population, that it has demographic disadvantages, that its dependence on imports is overwhelming and that it has a scarcity of adequate transportation and communications links, all of which pose special development problems, making the provision of services difficult and entailing very high overhead costs,

Noting that Vanuatu is included in the list of the least developed countries,

1. Calls the attention of the international community to the report of the Secretary-General on the specific problems and needs of island developing countries; 2/

2. Also calls the attention of the international community to the projects listed in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, 3/ which were endorsed by the Assembly in resolution 39/198 of 17 December 1984;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to mobilize assistance for Vanuatu;

4. Also expresses its appreciation to those States and organizations which have provided assistance to that country;

5. Further calls the attention of the international community to the special problems confronting Vanuatu as an island developing country with a small but rapidly growing and unevenly distributed population, a severe shortage of development capital and declining budgetary support from present donors;

6. Invites the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and expand their current and future programmes of assistance to Vanuatu, to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General in organizing an effective international programme of assistance and to report

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1/ See A/CONF.151/26 (vols. I, II and Corr.I and III).

2/ A/47/414 and Add.1.

3/ A/39/388, annex.

periodically to him on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to help that country;

7. Invites the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of Vanuatu and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1994;

8. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in the light of the fact that Vanuatu is included in the list of the least developed countries and the desire of the Government of Vanuatu to organize a round-table conference of donors, to give all the necessary assistance to Vanuatu for the preparation and organization of that conference, to be held no later than 1994;

9. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Vanuatu;

(b) To keep the situation in Vanuatu under constant review, to maintain close contact with Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions concerned, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1994, of the current status of the special programme of economic assistance for Vanuatu;

(c) To report on the progress made in the economic situation in Vanuatu and in organizing international assistance for that country in time for the matter to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.